

We claim:

1. A method of making a pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said method comprising:

5           a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis wherein each of said absorbent chassis defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

10           b) providing a pair of opposed side panels which define a first side margin and a second side margin opposite said first side margin;

          c) permanently attaching said first side margin of said side panels to said side edge of each of said absorbent chassis in one of said front waist region or said back waist region to provide a permanent joint;

15           d) selectively cutting said continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles;

          e) folding each of said discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through said crotch region of said article thereby positioning said waist regions in a facing relationship; and

20           f) refastenably attaching said second side margin of said side panels to said side edge of each of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to provide a refastenable joint thereby providing said pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said web of interconnected absorbent chassis is provided by:

          a) providing a continuous web of outer cover material;

5           b) positioning a continuous web of bodyside liner material in a superposed relation to said outer cover material; and

          c) intermittently placing individual absorbent cores between said outer cover material and said bodyside liner material at spaced apart locations.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said permanently attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said first side margins of said side panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said one waist region to provide said permanent joints.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said refastenably attaching includes refastenably engaging a fastener located on each of said second side margins of said side panels to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to provide said refastenable joint.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged directly to an outer cover material of said absorbent chassis.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said refastenably attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said second side margins of said side panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to assist said fasteners in providing said refastenable joints.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said second side margins of said side panels are ultrasonically bonded to said side edges of said absorbent chassis with releasable point bonds located longitudinally adjacent both longitudinal ends of said fasteners.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said second side margins of said side panels are releasably bonded to said side edges of said absorbent chassis to define a peel strength of no more than about 1500 grams.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said refastenably attaching includes:

a) refastenably engaging a fastener to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis adjacent each of said side edges of said absorbent chassis; and

b) overlaying and permanently bonding said second side margins of said side panels to said fasteners to provide said refastenable joints.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.

12. A method of making a pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said method comprising:

5 a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis wherein each of said absorbent chassis defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

10 b) permanently attaching a pair of laterally opposed back panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in one of said front waist region or said back waist region of said absorbent article to provide a permanent joint;

c) refastenably attaching a pair of laterally opposed front panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in said opposite waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint;

15 d) selectively cutting said continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles;

e) folding each of said discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through said crotch region of said article thereby positioning said front panels and said back panels in a facing relationship; and

20 f) connecting said front panels and said back panels together along a pair of laterally opposed side seams to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said permanently attaching includes ultrasonically bonding side margins of said back panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said one waist region to provide said permanent joints.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said refastenably attaching includes refastenably engaging a fastener located on side margins of said front panels to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to provide said refastenable joint.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.

33

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged directly to an outer cover material of said absorbent chassis.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein said refastenably attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said side margins of said front panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to assist said fasteners in providing said refastenable joints.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said side margins of said front panels are releasably bonded to said side edges of said absorbent chassis to define a peel strength of no more than about 1500 grams.

19. The method of claim 12 wherein said refastenably attaching includes:

a) refastenably engaging a fastener to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis adjacent each of said side edges of said absorbent chassis; and

5 b) overlaying and permanently bonding side margins of said front panels to said fasteners to provide said refastenable joints.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.

21. A method of making a pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said method comprising:

5 a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis wherein each of said absorbent chassis defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

10 b) intermittently providing a pair of laterally opposed side panels which define a front portion and a back portion;

c) permanently attaching said back portions of said opposed side panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in one of said front waist region or said back waist region of said absorbent article to provide a permanent joint;

15 d) refastenably attaching said front portions of said opposed side panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis to provide a refastenable joint;

e) selectively cutting said continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles along a cutting line which intersects said side panels between said front portion and said back portion;

20 f) folding each of said discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through said crotch region of said article thereby positioning said front portions and said back portions of said side panels in a facing relationship; and

g) connecting said front portions and said back portions together along a pair of laterally opposed side seams to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said permanently attaching includes ultrasonically bonding side margins of said back portions to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said one waist region to provide said permanent joints.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said refastenably attaching includes refastenably engaging a fastener located on side margins of said front portions to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to provide said refastenable joint.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged directly to an outer cover material of said absorbent chassis.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein said refastenably attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said side margins of said front portions to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said other waist region to assist said fasteners in providing said refastenable joints.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said side margins of said front portions are releasably bonded to said side edges of said absorbent chassis to define a peel strength of no more than about 1500 grams.